



ARENA REPORT



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Welcome back to another round of "AR". As you can see, my machine has been fixed. Sorry for the horrible looking type last issue. Once again we have a chockfull (what kind of grammar is that?) issue including a truly incredible piece of writing by K.C. O'Connor who delves into the Undertaker's character. And don't forget our profiles which will probably run through the end of the year. (Reader profiles that is.)

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. A label on your envelope indicates how many issues you have remaining. All match results, news, letters, and subscriptions may be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. Let's get to it!

#LIVE REPORT#

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

Thursday, January 16, 1992

Jacksonville Coliseum

Jacksonville, FL

Opening Match

Richard Morton over Johnny B. Badd in 7:55. I thought they were going to a 15 minute draw the way they were working. Not good. Just like the Clash. J.B. Badd said to the crowd, "Tell Ricky to hush!!" The crowd responded with "Hush Ricky!" Badd went for a sunset flip from the apron but Morton sat on him and held the ropes for the win. $\frac{1}{4}$ *

2nd Match

Marcus Alexander Bagwell used a fisherman suplex to put away perenial jobber Mike Thor in 7:16. Bagwell got a huge pop on intro. He finished the bout with not a hair out of place. Dud

3rd Match

El Gigante and Big Van Vader went to a double count out at 6:17. El was beating on Vader when Harley Race got on the apron. Gigante chopped Race outside and then put the claw on Vader but Harley broke it up with a chair. Ref Nick Patrick counted both out. * for some decent brawling outside the ring.

World Tag Team Championship

BOBBY EATON & ARN ANDERSON BEAT RICKY STEAMBOAT & DUSTIN RHODES TO WIN THE WORLD TAG STRAPS IN A TWO OUT OF THREE FALL BOUT!!!! Fall 1- Steamboat backdropped Bobby Eaton over the top rope to get the champs DQ'd at 13:03. I hate when 1 fall ends on a DQ. Belts shouldn't change hands. Paul E and Madusa really seem to be enjoying themselves. They're fun to watch. Ricky is relying too much on his karate repertoire. Have we seen one of his deep underhook armdrags yet? Eaton did a flying kneedrop from the top rope that defies description. He was flying. They had 30 seconds rest period which even seemed rushed. Fall 2- Dustin bulldogged Bobby in :47 to even things up. Fall 3- Faces worked over Arns' leg. Heat seemed to have died. Madusa got some awesome shots in on Steamboat while Bobby held him outside the ring. Larry Zbyszko came to ringside after the hot tag and pulled Ricky down from the apron and started hitting him. This brought out Barry Windham and Barry and Larry brawled to the back while Paul and Madusa put the shoes to Steamboat. Meanwhile in the ring, Arn nailed Dustin with the phone and pinned him. Time was 13:27. Last fall made the match. *** $\frac{1}{4}$

5th Match

Brian Pillman used a flying bodypress to dispose of Tracy Smothers in 8:22. This was to be a tag match between the Pistols and Pillman-P.N. News but Steve Armstrong was a no show. (He's been missing lots of dates. See "Ramblings".) **

Tag Team Match

Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Abdullah the Butcher & Mr. Hughes. This was to have seen the Steiners face Austin & Larry Z. but Austin's knee was still

bothering him. Hughes was to fight Barry but they pulled him for this bout. Some highlights saw Scott belly to belly Hughes. Scott also used Abby's bamboo pole to wail Abby. Rick also slammed the Butcher although it wasn't a full slam. Rick pinned Hughes with a bulldog from the top rope in 14:06 while Abby and Scott were brawling outside. After Abby went to the dressing room, Hughes stepped on the ringside table to leave and broke it. The Steiners dumped it on him and destroyed the guy. **

U.S. Heavyweight Championship

Rick Rude beat Sting via DQ in 10:44. Jim Herd leaves and the Dusty finish is running wild!!! Ref got bumped by Sting and fell out of the ring. Sting clocked Rude with the phone and went for the pin when 2nd ref Patrick came out and counted to three. The place went nuts only for the first ref Atkins to tell Patrick about dq'ing Sting. Place was pissed. ***½

NOTES

Crowd was 3,052 which is good since J-Ville is a Friday or Saturday town... They return in three weeks with Sting, Dustin, Steamboat vs. Rude, Arn, Eaton in a cage but they didn't announce the match. Guess they don't want to sell a lot of tickets. The reason they are running so soon is because Vince is booking the building every few months and they're worried. But all this is going to do is burn out the place before the PPV in May.....The title change was widely known among newsletter editors three weeks before the show but we all were afraid to leak it as WCW would have pulled the switch at another time because "everyone" would have known. You should have seen Dennis Brent's face when I saw him at the show and he asked why I came all the way to J-ville for the card and I said, "I didn't want to miss the title change." Hey, let's throw Dennis under the bus. He made fun that there were no cameras present because Dustin would probably do the job. Hey, he was right. Papa don't want sonny boy caught doing a job.

***** RAMBLINGS *****

As has been "AR" policy from the get go, I will not go through a long review of PPV shows if they happened more than a week ago since everyone has heard and read all there is to hear. I just have a few comments on the Rumble. Once again Vince made the smart move and put the Orient Express in the opener. This one wasn't as good as last years Rocker-Orient match but was very good. Roadies-Natural Disasters was better than other bouts I've seen between the teams but I wish they had done the blow off on this feud. What can you say about the Rumble. A tremendous match highlighted with Flair finally getting his due from Titan. It was interesting watching him battle Valentine one on one. Greg actually looked fired up for it. Same goes for Kerry Von Erich. Also liked the fact they had Undertaker go after him especially since they are booked as a tag team everywhere for a while. Thumbs up to a good card..... Do you realize if Vince got struck in the head by lightning and wanted to do a title vs. title bout with WCW at Wrestlemania that the bout would be Flair vs. Sting. Ho hum, we've seen it a dozen plus times.....Latest on Hogan is that he'll be gone at least until Summer Slam after WM. Still considering hanging them up for good.....Wrestlemania now looks like Flair vs. Savage and Hogan-Sid. If Hulk is coming back in August it would be senseless to give him the strap in April since he won't be around to defend it. Flair will retain against Macho Man.....Steve Armstrong has been missing lots of dates including the Clash due to a knee injury.....The reason Ron Simmons & Big Josh were given the U.S. tag belts (hasn't aired on TV yet) were because Ole Anderson, Ranger Ross, and Rocky King went to the NAACP and complained that even though Turner hires minorities, they never get pushed to the top. So Dusty figured by giving Simmons a tag belt, it would get the heat off of them. What's Ole's hand in all this? He wants to get Dusty fired as he thinks he could get the job back.....Bret Hart was offered \$300,000 (same as Rude is making) per year to go to WCW which is about \$100,000 more than he is making with Titan. Contract won't let him out until September. He'll probably go then but Vince will probably bury him so bad that Turner may not want him..... Marty Jannetty also has been talked with and although nothing is finalized, he may be going in March. I hope he sticks around for a little while as I'm looking forward to his bouts with Michaels. I don't know what WCW will do with him unless put him in a team with another rocker type. Maybe Morton. Tired of that gimmick.....Sunflower Sate Wrestling drew 300 on 1/19 in Hoisington, KS with Doug Buttons winning a bunkhouse battle royal on top. The group is negotiating with Rip Rogers, Scott Sandlin, Bobby Jagers, and Steve Ray. Anyone interested in tapes of these cards can send \$13.00 which includes postage to Gary Waugh, 310 N. Oakdale, Salina, KS 67401.....Taping for WCW Saturday show were held in Kansas City on 1/23 in front of 4,800. First show was on this past Saturday but skedded to air this Sat. 2/1 include Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson beating Brian Pillman & Mike Graham. Rick Rude beating Tom Zenk. Marcus Bagwell does another interview with Taylor interrupting and Bagwell leaves the set. A Steve Austin-Barry Windham match which breaks

Vince McMahon and Pat Patterson had the unenviable task in 1990 of trying to top a banner 1989, where Randy Savage interviews and the Rockers vs. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson ruled the promotion. The best McMahon and Patterson could seem to do was bring in the heel Sgt. Slaughter, the jungle warrior Saba Simba, and turn Nikolai Volkoff into a capitalist land-lubber. But as 1990 came to a close, with his end-of-the-year pay-per-view needing a boost, McMahon acquired the young, but well-traveled, Mark Calaway. Calaway, set to enter his fourth year in the business, had recently been impressive in the NWA but had never been given any real direction, and the company was quite befuddled as to the proper use of a 6' 7" 300-pounder who could walk the ropes like a junior heavyweight. Calaway, if anything, lacked color and charisma but was a decent worker. McMahon, always happy to sign someone with some size, and even happier if taken from the NWA, apparently had plans for "Mean Mark." The question is, did Vince realize, with the acquisition of Calaway, that Patterson, who was writing the script for 1991, would evolve into a modern day Mary Shelley?

At his unusual size of height and build, Calaway had the makings of a perfect monster heel. His lack of color and charisma would be a gimmick enough. The challenge was in finding a new angle to make him more than just "mean." He would have to display something that everyone would fear. Sorry, FDR, but the fear of death is truly the greatest fear of all. Mark Calaway would represent the fear of death as the biggest heel of 1991, the ultimate nightmare to Norman Thayers everywhere. Simply not selling gives the appearance of being unbeatable; that's easy enough to accomplish. But instilling fear to a level of Abdullah the Butcher or Bruiser Brody would be a task untested by a modern promoter to date. To obtain a look of uneasiness and absolute terror on fans' faces today, when even the biggest marks are wising up to good wrestling over gimmicks, would be a feather in the cap of McMahon and Patterson. And being the overachieving visionaries that they are, they pulled it off. But at what price?

The fine line that McMahon has teetered for so long has finally tripped him up and landed him flat on his face or, where it would leave a bigger bruise and scar to remain, his wallet. The Undertaker, born from the ashes of Mark Calaway, has become a Phoenix that is burning so brightly that it threatens to incinerate Titan Sports to ashes which the Undertaker will carry in his urn to his grave. The hard part is not in finding the man who could beat the Undertaker. Hulk Hogan is immortal, after all. He has conquered men who represent evil, such as Sgt. Slaughter, and who represent unstoppable desire, such as the Ultimate Warrior and Randy Savage. He has also overcome the odds of size in Andre the Giant and King Kong Bundy. Death surely could not overcome Hulkamania, the most powerful force in the universe next to religion. Oops, scratch that. Religion is now a subsidiary of Hulkamania.

While wrestling is based on good vs. evil, with the odds always swinging in the direction of the good, parents may not object to their child being a fan, so long as they feel their child recognizes the principles involved. In a twisted, read-between-the-lines kind of way, a child can receive the same message from wrestling that Robert Fulghum wrote about in his poem, "All I ever really needed to now I learned in kindergarten" -- share everything, play fair, clean up your own mess, and don't take things that aren't yours. But when parents realize that their electronic babysitter is attempting to scare the Hell out of their children, and that the WWF is pushing a Jason or Freddie Krugeresque wrestler, blatantly exposing the children to a horror show with caskets, urns, and tombstones, won't they turn the channel? Shouldn't they reconsider before buying a ticket to see a casket match where the loser is stuffed in a body bag or a coffin? Hadn't they better think before spending \$30 on a PPV titled, "The Gravest Challenge"?

1991, by all accounts, was not a very profitable year for the WWF. These matches often billed to reach biblical proportions are going too far. Good vs. evil, a debatable topic itself, is one thing, but showing a child Life vs. Death, the ultimate confrontation, while trying to pass it off as a wrestling match, is a bit much. Even though today's version of ethics and moral fiber is a joke, and giving parents this much credit is questionable, death is truly a traumatic event and to try to minimize this in a wrestling ring for the sake of a prized dollar is sick. Creativity in wrestling is arguably the toughest part of the business, but McMahon and Patterson have violated every parent's right to explain death to his child when he feels it is appropriate. And if any parent tries to blow off the effect of death on his child, he will surely feel the repercussions following his child's first personal loss, whether it be a relative, friend, or even a pet.

Not much is being said about the Undertaker. There has yet to be any outcry of distaste or foul play. Right now the Undertaker is hot. He is the most pushed week after week and has even been the champion for Vince's organization--you know, the organization that isn't wrestling but sports entertainment. There is nothing entertaining about death. It is the worst thing we must endure, and to use agony and anguish to that level in wrestling is not tacky and tasteless; it is sick, cruel, and unethical. My initial reaction to the Undertaker's debut was, "What a gimmick!" But after the past year, with the introduction of Paul Bearer and the Funeral Parlor, the gimmick has grown enormously and is out of control.

Death is not a bad guy. Terry Funk and Ted DiBiase are bad guys. Funk and DiBiase represent plain old nastiness and greed. Death is the end. Period. Death doesn't turn into a babyface. Death simply is. Hopefully, a broader view of this character will expose the lengths to which McMahon is willing to go, and an understanding will be established as to how far the WWF is willing to push to make money. Death has no place in wrestling. Death is, quite simply put, the finishing move of life.

Reader Profiles

NAME: K.C. O'Connor

OCCUPATION: advisory to authority figures

BORN: May 21, Boston

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: blunt, analytic, dilatory

DREAM VACATION: A week at Augusta National playing golf with Dan Quale

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: the smell of my shoes, social activists, the return of sideburns

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Elvis & Marilyn Monroe

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: Cool Hand Luke

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: Boones Farm Wine, oreos, the fresh smell of pine

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Roderick Toombs

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: Daily Affirmation With Stuart Smalley

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Having my picture taken with Jim Cornette and a sign that read, "Pepsi-The Choice of the Cornette generation" following his heart(burn) attack.

NAME: STEVE MEYERSON

OCCUPATION: Teacher

BORN: 11/5/56 Brooklyn, NY

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: loner, flake, open-minded

DREAM VACATION: A soundproof room with a "Do Not Disturb" sign.

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: Crowds, tabloid headlines, dressing for success.

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Vic Stanley

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: Roger and Me

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: chopped meat, diet soda, fat free ice cream

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE: Woody Allen

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: Baseball Tonight

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Taking a semi bump from Brody at a Florida show. As Brody ran back to the ring after brawling around the building with Sullivan, he pushed me lightly in the stomach and I had to step off the ringside chair in order to keep my balance.

NOTES FROM THE PARKING LOT

BY,
MARIANNE RYAN

WHAT MORE CAN BE SAID NOW THAT RIC FLAIR IS THE WWF CHAMP. IN SPENDING MORE THAN AN HOUR IN THE RING AT THE RUMBLE, HE PROVED THAT HE STILL IS THE MAN. WHILE IT MAY NOT BE RIGHT, OR FAIR, TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE BEST IS TO BE THE WWF CHAMP. IT ALSO SETS THE STAGE FOR THE FINAL APPEARANCE OF HULKAMANIA AT WRESTLEMANIA AS HOGAN BEATS FLAIR TO WIN THE TITLE ONE MORE TIME, AND THEN CALLS IT QUITS.

I WAS GLAD TO SEE RODDY PIPER FINALLY GET SOME KIND OF BELT. AND IF THAT MEANS JACQUES ROUGEAU HAD ONE OF THE SHORTEST REIGNS IN HISTORY, SO BE IT. KNOWING HOW MUCH BRET HART DISLIKES JACQUES, I FOUND IT AMUSING THAT HE LOST THE BELT AT A HOUSE SHOW INSTEAD OF AT THE RUMBLE. PROBABLY COULDN'T BEAR TO HAVE A PAY-PER-VIEW AUDIENCE SEE HIM GO DOWN IN DEFEAT TO JACQUES.

ANYWAY, THINGS SHOULD BE INTERESTING WITH SID BACK, HOGAN LEAVING, AND LEX ON HIS WAY. I HAVE LONG SAID LEX IS THE GUY TO TAKE HOGAN'S PLACE. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS GOING TO BE PLACATING THE GUYS WHO ARE ALREADY THERE-MOST OF WHOM DO NOT CARE MUCH FOR LUGER. ACCORDING TO TERRY TAYLOR, LUGER IS THE MOST MIS-UNDERSTOOD GUY IN WRESTLING. MAYBE, OR MAYBE HE REALLY DOES POSSESS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST EGO.

SPEAKING OF TERRY, HE LEADS ME TO THE PART OF THIS COLUMN DEDICATED TO CERTAIN PEOPLE (MARILYN ET AL) WHO HAVE MISSED MY PERSONAL ESCAPADES WITH THE WRESTLERS. IT'S JUST THAT IT GETS FRUSTRATING WHEN I SAY I SPENT TIME WITH SOMEONE AND PEOPLE ASSUME THAT MEANS WE RIPPED EACH OTHER'S CLOTHES OFF AND HAD MAD, PASSIONATE SEX. FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, IF THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS, THAT'S WHAT I'LL PRINT.

THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, MY BIRTHDAY WAS LAST WEEKEND (THE 10TH) AND DUE TO A STRANGE CHAIN OF EVENTS, DID NOTHING TO CELEBRATE. THAT IS, UNTIL I TALKED TO TERRY. HE WAS IN TOWN FOR SHOWS IN HAMMOND, INDIANA AND CHICAGO. WE MET UP AFTER THE HAMMOND SHOW AND HEADED TO STAY OUT, THE WRESTLER'S FAVORITE HANGOUT HERE IN CHICAGO. ALSO MAKING APPEARANCES THERE WERE BOBBY EATON, RICKY MORTON, PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY, RICK RUDE (WHO I HADN'T SEEN SINCE WRESTLEMANIA IN TORONTO), AND ARN ANDERSON. AT ONE POINT, PAUL E., BOBBY, AND RICKY VENTURED INTO A PRIVATE ROOM. MOST OF US ASSUMED THEY WERE WATCHING QUESTIONABLE VIDEO TAPES, AND IT TURNED OUT WE WERE RIGHT. THEY WERE WATCHING A TAPE OF THE WWF.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, I WENT OVER TO TERRY'S HOTEL AND WE WATCHED THE REDSKINS-LIONS GAME, AND DISCUSSED THE REASONS I HATE JOHN ELWAY. THEY ARE MANY, THEY ARE DIVERSE, AND MOST STEM FROM A MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL GAME, BUT I DIGRESS. ANYWAY, AFTER WATCHING TERRY DEVOUR A CAESAR SALAD AND TWO GRILLED CHICKEN BREASTS, IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO HEAD HOME. THAT'S ALL THE DIRT FOR NOW. UNTIL NEXT MONTH...

THUMB ANGLES

The winds of change are blowing all around and this column is no exception. I decided to change the title of the column and to try and keep the focus on the basic gist of pro wrestling and its personalities. I trust this change will allow those of you that think I am too cosmic for your tastes to give me a second look and those of you who have always caught my drift will hang in with me. Under The Mushroom was just too esoteric for some. The new column title is explained by the grading system (thumbs up, down, on in the middle) and the angle of the aforementioned thumb. We could also consider the word angles in pro wrestling but I don't want to waste anymore precious space on this issue.

STEVE BEVERLY - As I type this the dark black veil of death is upon one of wrestling's favorite publications. Have you ever thought about the time, effort, and dedication that is required to publish a weekly publication? I personally love Steve's editorial efforts and will very much miss them. My heartiest best wishes to Steve in whatever he endeavors. My fondest wish is that one day he will re-appear in the same manner he first appeared in our lives, on the pages of the Observer. So Long Steve, don't be a stranger.

ROYAL RUMBLE 1992 - Thumbs up from this customer. I was thrilled to see them put the belt on Ric Flair and I very much enjoyed watching him work against every WWF notable. I was a tad disappointed to see how quickly Ted DiBiase and Shawn Michaels went out of the match but found Flair's performance more than made up for their early exit. On a personal level, I saw true nature of Arena Report's editor Ron Lemieux's priorities just before the main event took place. His young son Christopher took a Cactus Jack style bump on my kitchen's ceramic tile just as the intermission ended. That Lemieux is just what you would expect him to be, a dedicated father who's child's safety was more important than any wrestling show.

PLUG-O-RAMA - The kingpin of wrestling satire, Jeff Mullins is restoring his Sushi newsletter to a monthly status. No one, I repeat no one is better at good-natured ridicule of wrestling, its personalities or fans than Jeff Mullins. From Dave Meltzer to Ric Flair to (fill in blank) everyone is susceptible to the Mull-mans biting wit. If you enjoy satire, this is the bulletin for you. My highest recommendation!!! Write to Jeff Mullins, Pro Wrestling Sushi, POB 36189, San Jose, Calif, 95158 - its \$1.50 an issue. Tell him Elvis Fujinami sent ya.

CLASH OF CHAMPIONS - Thumbs up barely. The first two matches were great but after the second match I should have gone out and notated my tires. It was great watching the Steiner Bros work with two big men (although to me Curtis Hughes is a slug, mid-level at best but Van Vaders reputation precedes him). I have for two years now wanted to see WCW bring in Gary Albright (6'4, 310 - excellent amateur background) and Darryl Peterson (6'5 310 - also a top notch amateur background) to feud with the Steiner Bros - pass the word! It was very exciting to see Jesse Ventura introduced but I found his commentary somewhat lacking.

One would have thought Jesse with Jim Ross, the greatest combo ever heard but I was disappointed. I also feel that to bring Jesse Ventura in for a virtual one-shot effort is lame. I'm sure Jesse is worth the money but why get all worked up over someone who will be gone by March?

POTPOURRI - One of my personal favorites, the Soul Taken is one of the newest WWF cartoon characters (a voodoo type). He had been working for New Japan learning his craft. I guess now he will never learn to wrestle. I would sure love to see Owen Hart work a singles series with Shawn Michaels. Did I miss something? Who is turning Brian Pillman or Johnny B. Badd?

WINDUP - On Rush Limbaugh's radio show he compared American Products to the Japanese. He used Hulk Hogan and the Ultimate Warrior as examples of our superior product. I will take Kenta Kobashi or Hiroshi Hase any day of the week over the steroid monsters. I tried to call and rebuke Mr. Limbaugh's statement but was unable to get through. Fini.....

K L O N

A NIGHT OF HELL IN MIAMI
OR
HEY! WE'RE NOT HITCH & MITCH
BUT WE'RE TRYING
by Dave "The Bitch Magnet" Flaherty
&
Jeff "The Booker" Bowdren

1-6-91- Miami Arena 3,500 approx-Has to be disappointing considering all the names on the card.

1) Marty Jannetty over Brooklyn Brawler. * $\frac{1}{2}$ Not much but Jannetty was okay. Jeff yelled to Marty that Verne called and said that he could probably get him indy dates.

2) Ted DiBiase drew El Matador. I don't know what I voted for worst gimmick, but Tito would have to get 2nd place. Gimmick aside, this was the best match of the night, maybe *** $\frac{1}{2}$. DiBiase put on a good show and Santana has always been solid. Sherri was rather sedate that night, but had a very hot outfit on. Dave kept screaming his phone number to her. We kept telling DiBiase to use the black glove & also told him that Bill Watts could get him into Amway if he was really interested.

3) Roddy Piper over Steve Keirn. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ This match only went five minutes, but was all action. Keirn spat his tobacco on Piper. Jeff missed the whole match buying a delicious arena pretzel. (Nothing for Lanigan to write home about by the way,) Piper got a pop.

4) New Foundation over Beverlys when Neidhart reversed a move on ends into a pin. Give the match ** all for Owen who did a few moves that popped the crowd. Bloom cracked up when we told Owen that his boots made him look like one of the Dynamic Dudes. Match went about ten minutes & mat Stiff Jim Neidhart was in for all of one minute. Every time he'd reach for a tag, we'd stand up and go "No, no! Jim, you need to rest!". We hammered Jim pretty good including yelling that he was letting another Hart brother carry a tag team & asking him to regale us with stories of his career with the Raiders.

5) Bret Hart won by submission over Da Mountie with the scorpion. Nothing special. - $\frac{1}{2}$ *

6) Kerry Von Tornado over Hercules with a rollup. This match calls to mind the word that begins with an "A" that was banned from the Observer. Oh boy! What a God awful match. Good thing Kerry didn't have to drop a urine this night because he was a mess. Funniest thing was at the beginning of the match, these 10 girls at ringside went apeshit over Kerry, like it was Dallas in 1983. Even Kerry was laughing. We told him not to worry, they thought he was Michael Hayes. Things were so bad that at one point, Jeff said, "We'd be better off if Kevin were here." Oh my God, what am I saying?". This match is over, but the aroma remains. -***

7) I.R.S. over Boss Man with his feet on the ropes. Somewhat surprised by the result. * $\frac{3}{4}$ They did a couple of nice spots together, but it wasn't anything to brag about.

8) Hulk Hogan over Ric Flair by count out. Match went about 12 or 13 minutes. Both got good response. The only thing Mr. Invincible would give Flair the first 8 minutes was the eye gauge. The real world champion took all his usual bumps. Hennig came down at about 10 minutes and handed Flair a gimmick, which gave Flair a two count before the finish. A few anti-Hogan signs which is a first in this market. One said, "Hogan & Zahorian are #1". There were even some boos for Hulk and a few "steroid" chants, none by us of course. *** $\frac{3}{4}$ all for Flair as Hogan did nothing. Good to see his initial excitement at wrestling Flair has waned, and he's returned to the same slug that we all know and (?) love.

NAME: MIKE LANO

OCCUPATION: Teeth

BORN: 4/18/57

WHAT 3 WORDS DESCRIBE YOU BEST: sensitive to criticism

DREAM VACATION: 1972-another cross country wrestling circuits tour.

THINGS YOU CAN DO WITHOUT: Jim Herd & most of WCW

WHOM IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE DINNER WITH: Kim Bassinger

MOVIE YOU COULD SEE ANYTIME: E.T.

3 THINGS THAT CAN ALWAYS BE FOUND IN YOUR REFRIGERATOR: Diet Coke, Dryer's Light Ice Cream, Kodak Slide Film

WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE:

WHAT TV SHOW DO YOU NEVER MISS: New Japan

FAVORITE WRESTLING MOMENT: Piper hitting Snuka with coconut.

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - Disneyland, Six Flags Over Georgia, and Astroworld just cannot hold a candle to the rollercoaster ride that has been World Championship Wrestling over the past month. What began with arguably the worst Starcade in history has now ended with a remarkable Clash of the Champions (or is it The Clash of Champions ? or The Clash of the Champions ?). Not since 1989 has a year held as much promise for WCW as 1992 does. The expected addition of Terry Gordy, Steve Williams, and Marty Jannetty will vault the overall workrate of the once laughable promotion to heights not seen this country since the Flair / Steamboat and Flair / Funk days, if then. Is this the same promotion that gave us Oz, The Motor City Madman, and The Junkyard Dog ? Unbelievable...On the Titan front, the To-The-Moon push of Ric Flair is a breath of fresh air. Flair was put over in the Royal Rumble like no other before him (when was the last time Hulk Hogan went 60:00 at anything ?). My hat is off to Vince McMahon (pardon the glare Eddie) for recognizing the true talent of Ric Flair. Hopefully, with Hogan dropping out of site until August, Flair will be a long term champion and not this year's model of Sgt. Slaughter...Since everyone else put their two cents in (with apologies to Mike Terry), here are my award winners:

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR: Jushin Liger ; **MOST OUTSTANDING WRESTLER:** Jushin Liger ; **BEST BABYFACE:** Hulk Hogan ; **BEST HEEL:** Jake Roberts ; **FEUD OF THE YEAR:** Jake Roberts vs. Randy Savage ; **TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR:** Arn Anderson & Larry Zbysko ; **MOST IMPROVED:** Dustin Rhodes ; **MOST UNIMPROVED:** Big Van Vader ; **MOST OBNOXIOUS:** WWF Security ; **BEST ON INTERVIEWS:** Jim Cornette ; **MOST CHARISMATIC:** Hulk Hogan ; **BEST TECHNICAL WRESTLER:** Scott Steiner ; **BRUISER BRODY MEMORIAL:** Cactus Jack ; **BEST FLYING WRESTLER:** Yoshihiro Asai ; **MOST OVERRATED:** Big Van Vader ; **BEST PROMOTION:** All-Japan Pro Wrestling ; **BEST TELEVISION SHOW:** All-Japan Pro Wrestling ; **MOST UNDERRATED:** Brian Pillman ; **MATCH OF THE YEAR:** Dustin Rhodes & Rick Steamboat vs. Larry Zbysko & Arn Anderson (11-19-91 Savannah, Georgia) ; **MANAGER OF THE YEAR:** Jim Cornette ; **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** The Lightning Kid ; **BEST TELEVISION ANNOUNCER:** Jim Ross ; **WORST TELEVISION ANNOUNCER:** Gorilla Monsoon ; **BEST MAJOR WRESTLING CARD:** Clash of the Champions XVI ; **WORST MAJOR WRESTLING CARD:** The Great American Bash ; **BEST WRESTLING MANEUVER:** Scott Steiner's "Frankensteiner" ; **MOST DISGUSTING PROMOTIONAL TACTIC:** The WWF's exploitation of the Persian Gulf War ; **BEST COLOR COMMENTATOR:** Bobby Heenan ; **PERSONAL FAVORITE WRESTLER:** Scott Steiner ; **LEAST FAVORITE WRESTLER:** Thomas Rich ; **WORST WRESTLER:** The Junkyard Dog ; **WORST TAG TEAM:** Giant Baba & Andre the Giant ; **WORST WEEKLY TELEVISION SHOW:** I.W.C.C.W. ; **WORST MANAGER:** Harvey Whippleman ; **WORST MATCH OF THE YEAR:** Sid Vicious vs. El Gigante (05-19-91 St. Petersburg, Florida) ; **WORST FEUD OF THE YEAR:** Sid Vicious vs. El Gigante ; **WORST ON INTERVIEWS:** Bill Kazmeier ; **WORST PROMOTION OF THE YEAR:** U.S.W.A. ; **BEST BOOKER:** Vince McMahon ; **BEST PROMOTER:** Joe Pedicino ; **BEST GIMMICK:** The Undertaker ; **WORST GIMMICK:** Rasta The Voo Doo Mon ; **MOST EMBARRASSING WRESTLER:** P.N. News.....

A PERSONAL NOTE, IF YOU WILL: This is the last week of publication of Steve Beverly's "MATWATCH" newsletter. Steve Beverly is one the classiest individuals that I have run across in professional wrestling. His advise to me as I tried to improve as a television commentator in Georgia and in Global were invaluable. I certainly wish him the best in whatever endeavor he chooses to pursue. The wrestling newsletter world is in his debt...

THE LAST WORD...

SO LONG, "MATWATCH",


MATWATCH

The cream always rises to the top...

 CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

National Guard Armory (MISSISSIPPI CHAMPIONSHIP) Grenada, MS December 14, 1991
 Correspondent: J.D. McKay

1) J.D. McKay, Jr. (former sheet editor for Ringside Reflector) beat Keith Starr via DQ when The Storm jumped in to break up a figure four. 2) Outlaw Blackie West over Ben Mullins. 3) The Storm (tag team of Rick Welch & Mike Murphy) downed Buddy Marshall & Ron Cavarechi. 4) Chris Champion sunset flipped Tommy Lane in a 25 minute bout. Champion subbed for Davey Rich. 5) Chris Champion won a 10 man battle/royal joining Eddie Gilbert for a slot in the Mississippi State tourney.

Maple Leaf Gardens (WWF) Toronto, Canada December 26, 1991
 Correspondent: George Wilkinson

1) Kerry Von Erich downed Skinner. 2) Chris Chavis upended Kato. 3) Berzerker defeated British Bulldog. 4) Big Boss Man over I.R.S. 5) Bret Hart turned back Jacques Rougeau. 6) Beverly Brothers over Rockers when Blake pinned Shawn Michaels. 7) Randy Savage & Hacksaw Duggan over Undertaker & Jake Roberts when Randy pinned Jake.

Springfield Civic Center (WWF) Springfield, MA January 17, 1992
 Correspondent: Dan Reilly

1) Tatonka pinned Skinner in 14:30. Chavis now sports a red mohawk. $\frac{1}{4}$ *
 2) Repo Man used the ropes for leverage to pin Virgil at 9:40. Dan said Virgil looked off the juice. -** 3) Sgt. Slaughter rolled up Nasty Boy Saggs in 10:10. Saggs got good heat before the bell but afterwards, forget it. $\frac{1}{2}$ *
 4) British Bulldog over Kato. Dud 5) Ric Flair beat Roddy Piper via count out in a short but great 7:20. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ 6) The Mountie pinned Bret Hart to win the Inter-Continental title in 8:00. Both men's shoulders were down but Rougeau lifted his before the count of three. Jacques beat Bret with the belt after until Piper made the save. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 7) Hulk Hogan (sub for Savage) rolled up Jake Roberts in 6:30. * $\frac{1}{2}$ ATT: 4,500

Toledo Sports Arena (WWF) Toledo, OH January 18, 1992
 Correspondent: Doug Hendricks

1) Kerry Von Erich reversed a powerslam to beat Hercules. * 2) Big Boss Man used Mike Rotunda's briefcase against him for a win. ** 3) Tatonka pinned Brooklyn Brawler. Dud 4) Undertaker over Sid Justice via DQ. Almost nothing but choking by Callous on Sid. Sid got caught using the urn. Dud 5) Hacksaw Duggan school boyed Jerry Saggs after Skinner came out to hold Hack for Saggs to hit but the Nasty Boy hit Skinner insated. Dud 6) Randy Savage pinned Jake Roberts after Jake missed a DDT when Randy grabbed the top rope. He then pinned a fallen Jake. Dud ATT: 3,000 Worst card Doug has seen in Toledo.

Boston Garden (WWF) Boston, MA January 18, 1992
 Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Repo Man beat Virgil using the ropes at 10:17. 2) New Foundation beat Warlord & Barbarian in 11:36 when Owen Hart pinned Barbarian. 3) Ted DiBiase & Tito Santana went to a 20 minute draw at 17:37. 4) Hulk Hogan downed Ric Flair on a count out at 13:45. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ 5) British Bulldog rolled up Berzerker in 5:01. 6) Chris Walker flying bodypressed Kato in 6:18. 7) Legion of Doom & Roddy Piper over Natural Disasters & Mountie in 15:46 when Piper pinned Jacques.

American Legion Post 139 (CWF) Tampa, FL January 19, 1992
 Correspondent: Shannon Rose

1) Allen Iron Eagle beat Tex Sallenger. 2) Jim Cooper & Paul Sampson over Mr. Fritzi & Sonny T. 3) Penelope Paradise downed A.J. Watson. 4) Jerry Flynn beat Rob Van Damme. 5) Black Panther defeated Tommy Star with Chris Proctor as guest ref. ATT: 200

St. Joseph Civic Arena (WCW) St. Joe, MO January 20, 1992
 Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Richard Morton reverse cradled Johnny B. Badd. 2) Brian Pillman flying bodypressed Tracy Smothers. 3) Mr. Hughes over Marcus Bagwell. 4) Van Vader & El Gigante went to a DDQ. 5) Steinners over Larry Zbyszko & Abdullah the Butcher when Rick pinned Larry. 6) Ron Simmons beat Cactus Jack after Abby hit Jack with stick. 7) Rick Steamboat & Dustin Rhodes over Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson via DQ. 8) Rick Rude beat Sting with the cheap Dusty finish as everywhere.
 ATT: 2,400

Rumble & Clash

WHOOO! The "Nature Boy" has got the WWF title belt around his waist. As he said, all the Undertakers, the Sids, and the Hogans...now they all have gotta pay homage to the MAN! Flair went for the first 45 minutes of his Royal Rumble run without even breaking a sweat. Number 3 went all the way and now we won't have to listen to Gorilla Monsoon say each year now, "Nobody who draws 1 through 5 ever wins it." Flair had good spots with Davey Boy, Piper, Undertaker, Hogan, and Savage--doing it all and thus forcing those WWF only uneducated fans & little kids to accept the fact that Ric Flair is the greatest. The whole battle royal was action packed and by far the best of the four. (Remember that USA Network one?)

Roddy Piper's match at R.R. brought back thoughts of his WM3 match with Adrian Adonis. If Piper was ever going to win a WWF title, this was the way to do it. Be himself--a little crazy, and paly the crowd well. He certainly did that, and I think it's great the "Hot Rod" is the I-C champ. Congrats Rod.

Jesse's back! In Atlanta this time. How he'll do as a team with Jim Ross is still questionable. But he did do a great job at the Clash calling the final bout. Great to have him back.

These past few weeks have been great as far as I'm concerned. First, Roddy Piper takes the Intercontinental title. Followed by Ric Flair making history by capturing the WWF title. Then "The Body" returns behind the mic. (Piper and Ventura have always been 2 of my fave wrestling personalities, & Flair; well, he's the "Nature Boy") Whoooo!

Dave Prazak
Lisle, IL

(continued from page 2)

down when the rest of the Dangerous Alliance and the Steiners run into the ring. The dark match saw Rude beat Sting via DQ as everywhere USA....Rip Rogers heading to Japan in May....IWF taping this Sat. is iffy once again. If they don't tape the boys will be real frustrated. Until they get someone in there to run the business end of things, this group unfortunately won't fly.... An Ed Gantner memorial service is skedded for 2/16....Chris Qualmann came back with some info on the National Association of Television Programming Executives which took place last week in New Orleans. Kip Frey, Madusa, and Eddie Gilbert were working the WCW booth. Don't read into this that Gilbert is WCW bound. He was just helping Madusa out as she was in the Global booth with him the next day. Titan even has guys no show convention matches. On their poster they listed Randy Savage competing in a match but they crossed it off the day of the bout and instead ran Tito Santana vs. Barbarian for all the suits. Mean Gene and Bobby Heenan did commentary and tried to get some heat going with the crowd but other than "Mark" Qualmann yelling a few things, the place was dead. Herb Abrams was in the crowd. He claimed to be running 40 house shows next month. Guess he's doing a bunch of double shots. What a piece of work this guy is....The Clash gets a thumbs up. The first two bouts were good but then it dragged until the Hammer-Cactus bout which was super. Hammer's first four high spots were impressive. It was great to see Jesse back and commentary with Jim Ross was fun. How many times are they going to rehash the Freebird gimmick. Retreads already. Garvin is looking 60 these days.... The reason the Bushwhackers weren't at the last Florida tapes was because they gave notice. Vince will be bringing in Buggy McGraw and the late Brute Bernard as his new comedy team. Heh, heh....Brian Knobbs was in the crowd in Tampa for the ICWA card last week while recuperating from his stab wounds.... ICWA in Hudson, FL on 1/25 has JYD vs. Kendall Windham, Jimmy Backlund vs. Dean Malenko, also Terminators, Lanny Poffo, Ron Bass, and Pat Tanaka..... WWF on 1/25 in Chicago before 7,500 saw Roddy Piper vs. Flair in a title vs. title bout also Sid-Undertaker. Full results next ish....Despite all Jim Herd's denials, he was negotiating with Ultimate Warrior before he left. His long range plan was to turn Sting and have Sting wrestle the Steiners and Simmons until Warrior made his entrance and take the title right away. Safe bet that that is all off now. Turning Sting would be suicide....CWF in Tampa at the Exposure on 2/1 will see Big V vs. The Viper on top with Dean Malenko & Jumbo Berretta taking on Paul Samson & Jim Cooper....Bruce Ginevan of 405 Deep Run Pkwy, Elkridge, MD 21227 has the two WWA shows that were held on 1/10 & 1/11 on tape. A few of the bouts include Murdoch vs. Backlund, Kamala vs. Lawler, Backlund vs. Lawler, and Murdoch-Kamala....Evan Ginzburg is putting out the first Wrestling-Then & Now Annual. It sounds super. It'll be called the Great Territories. At 50 pages it will cover all the great regional promotions of the past, and publish literally hundreds of clippings, line-up sheets and results. Also numerous articles, title histories, and interviews. The price is \$7.00 and you can send your order to Evan at P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364.....Next issue will be out 2/10 and will include a live report from WCW in Jacksonville on 2/7. Mike Terry, Evan Ginzburg, Scott Hudson, and Harry White sends us an extended "Harry Speaks" as he tells us about the WCW press conference that was held in Kansas City....Until then, see ya! Ron That damn "a".